Amendments to the Claims:

Please delete all claims and add the following new claims:

24. (New) A fuel cell assembly comprising:

a plurality of multi-cell modules disposed in series;

an external member, and

an external restrainer member,

wherein the multi-cell module has a multi-cell assembly formed by stacking a plurality of cells, and a module frame having a first wall that surrounds the multi-cell assembly and that extends in a cell stacking direction of the multi-cell assembly,

wherein the external member extends outside the plurality of multi-cell modules and in the cell stacking direction along the multi-cell modules, and

wherein the external restrainer member is provided between an internal surface of the external member and an external surface of the first wall of the module frame of the multi-cell module.

25. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein in the multi-cell module, the multi-cell assembly of the multi-cell module is left unrestrained in the cell stacking direction by the module frame of the multi-cell module so as to relieve thermal expansion of a cell in the cell stacking direction.

26. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24,

wherein in the multi-cell module, cells of the multi-cell assembly are adhered to one another.

27. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24 , wherein in the multi-cell module, a space is formed or a deformable adhesive member is provided between an external surface of the multi-cell assembly of the multi-cell module and an internal surface of the first wall of the module frame of the multi-cell module so as to relieve thermal expansion of a cell in a direction perpendicular to the cell stacking direction.

28. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein the plurality of multi-cell modules are disposed in series in the cell stacking direction, and a spring box is disposed in series in the cell stacking direction with respect to the plurality of multi-cell modules disposed in series, and a spring force of the spring box is applied to the plurality of multi-cell modules in the cell stacking direction.

29. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein the module frame has a second wall that extends in a direction perpendicular to the cell stacking direction, in addition to the first wall.

30. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 29, wherein a coolant passage is formed in the second wall.

31. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 30, wherein a contact surface of the second wall which contacts a cell is formed of an electrically conductive material.

32. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 29, wherein at least a portion of a contact surface of the second wall which contacts a cell is formed so as to be displaceable in the cell stacking direction.

33. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 32, wherein a coolant passage is formed in the second wall, and a portion of the second wall which is displaceable in the cell stacking direction is displaced by a pressure of the coolant passage.

34. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein an external surface of the module frame and an internal surface of the external member contact each other in a point contact fashion.

35. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein the module frame is provided with an opening for mounting, on the multi-cell assembly, a member that electrically connects the multi-cell assembly to an

external device.

36. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein the module frame includes at least two frame members that are separate from each other.

37. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein an internal surface of the module frame has a groove for an adhesive.

38. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein the module frame is provided with a cell monitor presser that extends from the module frame toward an external surface of the cell monitor, wherein the cell monitor presser is located near the cell monitor.

39. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein at least a portion of the module frame is formed of a non-electrically conductive material.

40. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein frame members that constitute the module frame made of a resin are disposed at four corner sites of an end cell of a multi-cell assembly of the multi-cell module.

41. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein the module frame is formed of an elastic member.

42. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 41, wherein a friction coefficient of a surface of the elastic member is smaller than a friction coefficient of the elastic member itself.

43. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 41, wherein the module frame is connected to an end cell of a multi-cell assembly of the multi-cell module.

44. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 41, wherein a wire is embedded in the module frame.

45. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein the external restrainer member is formed of a deformable material applicable to deform in a direction perpendicular to the cell stacking direction.

46. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein the external member is a casing, and wherein the external member also serves as a tension plate.